

How to Reclaim, Retain, and Revive Absentees, Inactive and New Members

I. Questions

- A. What are the reasons given to you and your members by absentees and inactive members for not coming?
- B. How many of your absentees have been personally visited by a class member?
- C. To what extent does having friends or acquaintances already in the class play in bonding them?
- D. How much prayer is being offered up?
- E. Has anyone ever surveyed your absentees as to what they would like to see taught in class? What subjects would they be interested in? Would they attend a class when these are taught?

II. Strategies

- A. Determine some common denominators in the answers.
 - 1. How do you find out why they are coming or not coming? Exactly what themes seem to be occurring over and over?
 - 2. What is the best way to get an honest answer?
 - 3. Who should do the gathering of information?
 - 4. How should it be done? What are your options?
 - 5. When should it be done?
- B. Categorize the answers.
 - 1. Are they spiritual in nature (just not committed)?
 - 2. Are they scheduling problems (work/spouse not in agreement)?
 - 3. Are they relational problems (someone hurt their feelings)?
 - 4. Are they alienation problems (do not know anyone, do not feel like they belong)?
 - 5. Are they class problems (group leaders/outreach leaders not doing their jobs)?
 - 6. Other problems?

- C. Analyze the information
Are there root problems that need to be addressed (sin in the life of a member, poor preparation by teacher, attitudes of selfishness in the class that exclude others, not in agreement with the policy of the staff, not a team player, subject matter not meeting needs...)?
- D. What can be done to meet those needs with our present resources?
- E. What new strategies are needed to meet these needs or accomplish these goals?
- F. Where is God in our focus?